

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 MMO-01 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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R 170049Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LI, US

SUBJECT:REDUCTION IN MAAG

1. STATE IS PREPARING A MESSAGE WHICH WILL EXPLAIN THE IMPACT OF NEW LEGISLATION NOW IN CONGRESS ON WORLD-WIDE MAAG LEVELS. BRIEFLY, THIS YEAR TEN MAAGS WILL BE ELIMINATED. DECISION AS TO WHICH MAAGS WILL BE CLOSED HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AND IS SUBJECT OF INTERAGENCY NEGOTIATIONS, BUT EUCOM ERRED IN STATING OR IMPLYING THAT LIBMISH WOULD BE ELIMINATED IN THIS FIRST ROUND OF REDUCTIONS.

2. PROPOSED LEGISLATION ALSO ENVISAGES THAT BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1977, THE OTHER 34 MAAGS WILL BE ELIMINATED UNLESS CONGRESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZES THAT A MAAG MAY CONTINUE. TO REPLACE MAAGS, THE NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR A THREE-MAN GROUP TO BE ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY TO HANDLE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES DETAILS.

3. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF ABRUPTLY
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CLOSING THE MAAG IN MONROVIA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR

VIEWS AS TO HOW WELL A THREE-MAN FMS GROUP ATTACHED TO THE
EMBASSY COULD CARRY OUT DUTIES AND FULFILL US OBJECTIVES
VIS-A-VIS THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA. ROBINSON

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